



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

MEMORANDUM

To: Beloved Clergy of the Direct Archdiocesan District

From: Bishop Andonios, Chancellor

Date: October 8, 2013

Re: Funeral Services

My dear Fathers,

It has recently come to our attention that some of our clergy have been approached by the families of deceased to offer the funeral service at the funeral home (instead of bringing the deceased to the church), while other clergy have already taken it upon themselves to do funeral services at funeral homes (I assume at the request of the family).

Having discussed the issue with His Eminence this past Friday, at his direction I am herein communicating to you this directive that this practice is not appropriate and should not be done by any of the clergy of the District. As is our practice and tradition, the funeral service should be offered only in the church while a trisagion is the appropriate service offered in the funeral home.

The only exceptions to this directive would be in those situations where the closest church is a distance away from the funeral home or the church has been damaged and hence services cannot be done within. Regardless of the circumstance, any exception to this practice must be brought to my attention (in writing) and approval granted before proceeding.

As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated and assures consistency and appropriateness within the District. I convey to you the paternal love and blessings of the Archbishop.

The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God and Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Bishop Andonios